ADDRESS

OF THE

DEWAN OF MYSORE

TO THE

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY,

11th October 1905.

GENTLEMEN,

Before proceeding to the business of the day I cannot help recalling to mind the mournful event that afflicted the ruling family since we met on the last occasion. The second Maharaja Kumari passed away in November last, while still young, after a long illness, and the whole country at the time mingled its sorrow with that of those dear to her. From our place here, when we meet for the first time after the sad event, we can but offer our tribute of respectful sympathy and sorrow for the loss of so amiable a member of the family.

By command of His Highness the Maharaja, I shall now place before you an account of the past year's administration.

Rain-fall and Season.

The year, as many of you are already aware, was not very favorable to agricultural operations.

The average rain-fall was 29·16 inches, which was 24·53 inches less than that for the preceding year and 16 inches less than the average since 1870. According to monsoons the south-west showed a deficiency of about 8 inches and the north-east of about 11 inches. The rains after Mrigasira and Aridra were a great disappointment, much to the injury of growing crops. Ragi, paddy and other food-crops suffered considerably, and the yield from Kartika harvest especially, was much less than usual. His Highness the Maharaja in his tour in the T.-Narsipur and Nanjangud Taluks personally noticed the poor condition of ragi, horse gram and other dry crops in some of the parts of these Taluks.

Drought.

On account of the drought, various measures were adopted for the relief of men and cattle. Permission was granted to the raiyats of the Chitaldrug District and of the taluks of Sira, Tiptur and Chiknayakanhalli in the Tumkur District, and of Arsikere and Channarayapatna Taluks in the Hassan District to cut and remove date leaves. The free grazing of cattle in some of the State Forests and Amrut Mahal kavals was allowed. Special attention was drawn to the provision for granting tank beds for temporary cultivation ; and in the Kolar and Tumkur Districts this concession was largely availed of.

I may also say that in the months of July and August last, in parts of the Kolar District a crisis appeared to be approaching. The tracts most affected were the Kolar Taluk, portions of the Malur and Bowringpet Taluks, the Mulbagal and Bagepalli Taluks and the Gudibanda Sub-Taluk. The cattle appeared to be suffering more than men. Besides the concessions referred to above, various others were ordered to be shewn to the raiyats. A sum of Rs. 15,000 was sanctioned for granting loans to encourage the sinking of wells in suitable areas for growing fodder and for securing drinking water supply and to assist the importation of fodder and the purchase of seed grains by the raiyats. Additional funds were sanctioned for carrying out the restoration of minor tanks on a more comprehensive scale. But the necessity to open test works or poor houses was happily averted by a copious rainfall towards the end of August.

On the occasion of my recent visit to the Shimoga District I found the standing crops in some places suffering from want of rain, and suitable instructions have been issued to the Deputy Commissioner regarding the matter.

Finance.

The total income and expenditure of the year amounted to Rs. 216,10,486 and Rs. 216,84,799, respectively. There was thus a small excess of Rs. 74,313 in expenditure over the receipts against a deficit of Rs. 4,49,716 in the previous year and of an estimated deficit of Rs. 5,10,000 in the budget of the year under review.

The receipts included Rs. 3,18,977, being the interest on investments, Rs. 7,90,003 from Railways, Rs. 16,90,660 from Gold Mining and Rs. 12,10,886 from Cauvery Power Scheme.

The receipts were better than those of the previous year by Rs. 52,000. The statement in your hands shows the fluctuations in the several items. The decrease under

Land Revenue is shown as Rs. 1,31,590; a little more than Rs. 42,000 of this, however, is only nominal on account of the tax on vacant building sites having been transferred, as explained last year, to the head of "Mohatarfa." The season being, as you know, unfavorable to agricultural operations, the decrease due to relinquishments of lands amounted to about Rs. 28,000, while the same cause affected the sales of occupancy of lands and of proceeds under "Amaroyi" to the extent of about Rs. 37,000. The collections of revenue also had to be somewhat relaxed in the interests of the agricultural population.

Under Gold Mining, almost the whole of the decrease shown was due to the credit during the year of the Royalty from two of the Mines, on the production of only 11 months as against 13 months in the previous year. The decrease under Cauvery Power Scheme, *viz.* Rs. 2,60,354, is accounted for, by some of the companies not having paid the cost of Power supplied to them during March last till after the close of the year, and by the recovery in 1903-04, under the terms of the contract with the Companies, of the cost of Power for 4 months at £29 and for the remaining months at £18 as against the uniform rate of £18 during the year. Against this has to be set off an increase of Rs. 42,000 from a new source of revenue, *viz.*, the cost of water supplied to the Gold Mines for 4 months from Bethamangala Water-works. The receipt would have been more but for the breaching of the tank in the previous year due to heavy rains, and its not filling on account of the long drought that subsequently prevailed.

There was an increase of Rs. 1,18,153 under arrack, but there were decreases under toddy and beer amounting to nearly Rs. 40,000. The revenue under toddy, however, would have been more but for the assignment of the 1/17th share of the toddy shop rental amounting to Rs. 72,492, to Local Funds General. The net increase under Excise was a little more than Rs. 92,000.

The increase of Rs. 1,27,000 under State Investments and Bank Deposits was due to an additional investment of 22 lakhs and to the Madras Bank having credited the interest due for the year on the last day of June instead of on the 1st July of the succeeding year as was the case in previous years.

Now taking the expenditure, there was on the whole a decrease of Rs. 3,23,339 as compared with that of the previous year. The decrease of 3 lakhs under Public Works was mainly due to a smaller grant. The absence during

the year of any heavy charges of an unusual nature account for the large decrease we notice under the head Miscellaneous. *Per contra* there was an increase of one lakh on account of pension to the Yuvaraja. The increase of Rs. 63,550 in the Land Revenue charges is partly to be accounted for by the transfer to this head of the charges amounting to Rs. 41,483 on account of the Revenue Commissioner and his establishment from the head of "General Administration," and is partly due to the promotions in the usual course of some of the Deputy and Assistant Commissioners and the increase under salaries and establishments in the Revenue Survey Department.

The increase of Rs. 1,95,128 in the expenditure under Cauvery Power Scheme was chiefly on account of the Bangalore Electric Lighting.

The opening balance on the 1st July last was Rs. 142,50,958 against Rs. 134,74,685 in the previous year. Of the former balance, Rs. 64,87,700 was in Government of India Securities and the rest in cash, Rs. 37,38,531 being in the State Treasuries, Rs. 38,22,677 in the Madras Bank and Rs. 2,02,050 with Messrs. Coutts & Co., London. The Government surplus was Rs. 43,66,320.

According to the budget estimates of the current official year, the total receipts are estimated to amount to Rs. 227,43,000 and the total expenditure to Rs. 213,40,000, leaving a surplus of Rs. 14,03,000. The large expenditure of Rs. 213,40,000 contains several extraordinary items, such as contribution to the Mysore Trust Board, Rs. 3,00,000; Shimoga drainage, Rs. 30,000; Plague charges, Rs. 1,25,000; and reception of important personages, Rs. 1,50,000. Under Public Works may be mentioned, Rs. 3,75,000 for Marikanave Project, Rs. 3,00,000 for Palace reconstruction, Rs. 1,20,000 for the Bangalore City Improvement, Rs. 50,000 for the Victoria Hospital, Rs. 1,00,000 for the restoration of Ramasagara tank, and Rs. 1,00,000 for Minor Irrigation works.

You remember that in my address of 1903, I have analysed the circumstances affecting our finance and have stated that there was need to exercise economy in ordinary expenditure, and to embark with caution on large outlays. The question has since been examined by the Comptroller, and his report has just reached Government. It largely confirms what I said two years ago that the increase of expenditure has been somewhat disproportionate to the increase of revenue. The Government, however, are quite alive to the importance of maintaining the expenditure well within the means. The completion of almost all the large projects in hand has already enabled us

to turn our attention to gradually build up a sufficient reserve, and a beginning has been made in this direction by securing a surplus of 14 lakhs this year.

Savings Bank.

The deposits of the year amounted to Rs. 41,39,359 and the withdrawals to Rs. 33,62,322. The opening and closing balances were Rs. 78,78,573 and Rs. 89,04,800, the latter including Rs. 2,49,000, being the interest which accrued during the year. There was an increase of 2,586 in the number of depositors, the total number in the beginning of July last being 22,800. It is under contemplation to restore the limit which existed prior to 1898 on future deposits.

State Life Insurance.

During the year 1,408 proposals were dealt with, and 1,018 effective policies were issued, assuring a bonus of Rs. 4,56,704 for a monthly premium of Rs. 1,650.

The closing balance at the credit of this fund at the end of the year was Rs. 11,41,132-2-6. The benefits of Insurance were extended to the employees on the Palace permanent establishment.

Local Funds.

Seven new village unions were formed in the course of the year.

The income under District Funds amounted to Rs. 7,03,935-8-1, and including the opening balance of Rs. 4,56,206-15-11, the sum available for expenditure was Rs. 11,60,142-8-0. The actual expenditure was Rs. 7,47,492-14-9, of which Rs. 5,49,779 was on Public Works, Rs. 34,174 on Sanitation, Rs. 87,211 on Medical aid, Rs. 23,070 on accommodation for travellers, and the rest on miscellaneous items.

The income under *Local Funds General* amounted to Rs. 1,60,303, and the opening balance was Rs. 2,32,551. Out of the total of Rs. 3,92,854, Rs. 2,30,728 was spent; chiefly,—on Public Works Rs. 1,79,830; Industrial schools, Rs. 33,795; Engineering schools, Rs. 7,983; Vaidyasalas and Unani Hospitals, Rs. 3,772; and Maintenance of Agricultural Farms, Rs. 4,828. Of the amount under Public Works the expenditure on wells was Rs. 44,800 and on drains Rs. 16,900.

Municipal.

The number of Municipalities was 87 and the receipts amounted to Rs. 8,18,408. Including the opening balance, out of a total of Rs. 10,37,082, the expenditure amounted to Rs. 6,91,063, of which Rs. 1,72,105 was on Conservancy and Sanitation, Rs. 14,492 on the Registration of Births and Deaths, Rs. 53,573 on Lighting, Rs. 21,411 on Water Supply; Rs. 35,311 on the construction of drains, etc.; Rs. 1,51,073 on Roads and other public works; Rs. 46,131

on the maintenance of Dispensaries, Hindu and Unani Vaidyasalas and Midwives ; and Rs. 36,393 on Education. A grant of Rs. 13,425 was also given from the Local Funds General for sanitary improvements in Chitaldrug and certain other municipalities in that District.

The levy of a subsequent duty on unsold articles taken to another Municipality after the duty had been levied in one Municipality had hitherto formed a source of constant trouble to the trading classes, and there was also much discussion on the subject in this Assembly in the past year. It has now been ordered that in the case of cloths which alone are easily identifiable, no duty should be subsequently levied by any other Municipality within a period of three months from the date of first payment of duty, but that a transfer of the duty may be obtained from the first Municipality.

Agriculture, Industry and Trade.

An experiment is being tried with some success in the Kunigal Stud Farm of introducing Patna rice and also some fine Guzerat rice.

Rubber and Fibre plants were extensively propagated in the Lal-Bagh at Bangalore to meet the growing demands for the same from different parts of India. Of the fibre plants, the introduction of caravonica cotton from Australia is noteworthy.

The establishment of an experimental farm consisting of about 30 acres near the Hebbal village in the Bangalore Taluk has been taken in hand by the Agricultural Chemist. Notwithstanding the comparatively uniform nature of the soil, it is likely that there is considerable difference in the present productiveness of the various plots, owned as they were by several people who had necessarily treated their fields differently; and in order to test the extent of these differences a portion of the area is under a trial crop. On the rest of the area, different varieties of garden crops and paddy are being grown, also some cholam for fodder.

On the experimental plot in the Laboratory compound at Bangalore, principally ragi and sugar-cane were grown. The sugar-cane was a ratoon crop and although it lodged much more than it did last year, the crop was about as good. The chief part of the experiment in sugar-cane lay in the manufacture of jaggory and raw sugar. Some very good samples of raw centrifugalled sugar were produced, one of these contained 98½ per cent of cane sugar and less than ½ per cent of reducing sugar instead of 70 to 75 per cent of cane sugar and 7 to 12 per cent of reducing sugar usually contained in Mysore jaggories. This sample of

raw sugar was very light in color and in all respects appeared to be an exceptionally good sample.

A plant house in which pot cultures are to be carried on, is in course of construction, and a building containing a room for permanently exhibiting agricultural implements, is nearly complete.

A Mycologist and Entomologist for the investigation of insect pests and plant diseases has been selected in Canada, and the sanction of the Government of India sought for. Two Probationary Assistant Chemists have also been appointed.

In this connection it is necessary to say a word of caution as regards Scientific Agriculture. It has yet to grow in India, and the principles settled in European countries and America cannot be bodily imported into India on account of differences of climate, soil and other conditions. Yet these principles are not without value to us, and their successful application to the various soils in Mysore naturally presupposes a great deal of experiment and original work requiring much time and thought. I make these observations merely with a view to obviate unnecessary disappointments at the results achieved.

Messrs. Arbuthnot & Co. have been granted about 5,000 acres of land under the Marikanave Reservoir, under the ordinary Kandayam tenure. On this land, the Company intend to grow sugar-cane, applying the methods of high scientific farming. It is expected that these methods will serve as an object lesson to the people of Mysore and in other ways also benefit them. The Marikanave is thus already showing its practical usefulness.

You will also be interested to hear how the experiment of rubber cultivation which this enterprising firm is making in the Shimoga District, and to which I referred last year, is progressing. The plantation is situated on the bank of the Bhadra river, 17 miles from Shimoga, and I had the pleasure of visiting it recently. It covers an area of 250 acres, out of which 200 acres contain ceara rubber, 10 acres mulberry and one acre cotton. The planting operations were commenced in January 1904 and many of the plants appear already to have come up very well. Mr. Strickland who supervises the operations in behalf of the company believes ceara will prove itself to be the variety best suited to the conditions of Mysore. The experiment is full of possibilities, being useful as a model to the surrounding raiyats.

Another rubber plantation of a different species which also I saw is that at Hebbe near Yedahalli in which 2,000 para rubber plants have recently been planted by the Forest Department.

Revision Settlement.

Revision Settlement was introduced during the year into the three taluks of Jagalur, Holalkere and Chitaldrug. The increase in assessment on occupied lands in Jagalur Taluk was only 24 per cent, being much below the maximum limit of 33 per cent prescribed by Government. The increases in the average dry and wet rates were from Re. 0-6-2 to Re. 0-8-0, and from Rs. 1-12-0 to Rs. 2-0-11 respectively; while the garden average decreased from Rs. 2-8-0 to Rs. 1-11-3. This taluk was first settled in 1867, and at the time of the Revision Settlement, the population had increased by about 17,000 and the occupied area by about 33,000 acres. The increase in the number of cattle was 10,000. There was no re-classification of the soil, the water classification alone of wet and garden lands being revised.

The increase on the former assessment in the Holalkere Taluk was about 18 per cent. There were indications of similar prosperity in this taluk also but the great famine of 1877-78 had committed the greatest havoc in this tract and it was found to have recovered from the depression only during the last ten or twelve years. The low percentage of increase is intended to give a further impetus to agricultural expansion for which there is very great scope here.

In the Chitaldrug Taluk the increase of assessment was only 15 per cent, and this must be regarded as exceedingly moderate allowing the agricultural classes to enjoy a good portion of the advantages arising from the increased value of land and higher prices resulting from the increased facilities of communication.

The taluks of Chellakere, late Budihal, and Sorab are now ready to have the rates announced next cold weather.

The form of Survey guarantee was revised so as to define in clearer terms the customary obligations of the raiyats in regard to irrigation works.

The procedure of inviting objections, if any, to the grouping of villages and the maximum rates of assessment to be levied, within two months before a revision settlement is formally introduced, was found to give to the raiyats no clear ideas as to how their holdings were individually affected. It has therefore been ordered that appeals may be submitted to Deputy Commissioners within

three months from the introduction of the Revised Settlement. These appeals will be considered by Government after report by the Deputy Commissioner and after reference, if necessary, to the Survey Commissioner. This modification has the merit of pointing out to the raiyat the exact position in which he stands, before he makes any representation.

Revenue.

The scheme for the improvement of the Shekdari service has been fully introduced into the Kolar District, and is in various stages of introduction in the other Districts, the new Hoblis having been constituted throughout the State.

Agricultural Banks.

The loans granted during the year amounted to Rs. 62,080 and the recoveries to Rs. 1,10,837. Out of a total of 23¼ lakhs, there still remains a debt of 13¾ lakhs due to Government which has to be gradually recovered.

In my address of last year I referred to the advances granted to the members of Coffee Banks at Saklespur and Chikmagalur for meeting the working expenses of their estates. As all efforts to revivify these Banks and keep them in existence failed, they have been wound up. Excepting a few estates which it is hopeless to maintain, all have been left to be worked by their owners who have individually undertaken to pay their share of the debt due to Government in equal instalments within a period of twenty years.

The loans granted to thirteen other Agricultural Banks were ordered to be collected; two in Kolar, eight in Shimoga and three in Mysore. The total amount due from these Banks was Rs. 1,51,958, out of which only Rs. 50,395 had been recovered, leaving still Rs. 1,01,562 to be recovered. Although time was given for payment in easy instalments, there was much indifference on the part of the members and Government had to resort to coercion though with reluctance. In all these Banks, the office bearers themselves were found mostly to be the greatest borrowers and the greatest defaulters. At Issur and Gogga in Shikarpur Taluk, the president, agent and one or two members were found to have taken all the money borrowed from Government. Similarly at Mandya, the ill-success of the Bank was due to the questionable conduct of the agent. The remaining Banks have been paying up their dues with fair punctuality; although as working institutions they are far from fulfilling their primary objects.

Co-operative Societies.

In this connection, I may mention that the Co-operative Societies Regulation to which I referred in my last

address was passed in June this year. The Regulation is intended to be helpful to all classes of people for the furtherance of thrift and providence among them. To the agriculturists and artizans especially, the Regulation affords an easy means of combination by which they can obtain the credit they need for their business and derive benefit in other ways also. The Society can act in behalf of the members for the supply to them of raw material, seed or manure, for the purchase of articles of consumption or of animals, implements or other stock required in agriculture or industry, for the purchase of machinery and its use in common, for the building of houses or purchase of lands, for the carrying out of agricultural and industrial improvements or for any other approved object calculated to promote their economic benefit.

The minimum number of members required to start a Society is ten, and it can be on a basis of limited or unlimited liability. The funds are to be derived from shares, from deposits and from loans. No share or interest of a member in the capital of the Society is liable to attachment or sale under decrees of Civil Courts. Subject only to any prior claim of Government in respect of land revenue or similar dues, a Society is entitled to priority in enforcing its claim upon the crops or other agricultural produce of a member. Similarly, the Society has a prior claim upon any cattle, agricultural or industrial implements or raw material for manufactures supplied by it or purchased with money lent by it. The Society also has a charge upon the shares, deposits or other sums belonging to a member and can set off any debt due to itself from such member.

No charges are made for registering a Society and it is open to Government to exempt any Society or class of Society from taxation, stamp duty, and fees under the Registration Act. The Regulation also provides for the appointment of a Registrar with large powers for the control and guidance of these Societies. He will audit the accounts of each Society free of charge once at least in every year. The Registrar may be empowered by Government to settle any disputes touching the business of a Society, or refer them to arbitration.

The advantages of this enactment, if properly utilized, are manifold. The problems of agricultural and industrial indebtedness and of the material advancement of our cultivators and artizans have come to be recognised as too important to be left to themselves in these days, and

intelligent guidance has become an absolute necessity. An experienced and earnest officer has been appointed Registrar, chiefly to bring home to the minds of the people the advantages of the new enactment. I must, however, repeat, gentlemen, what I said last year, that in any case, without the interested sympathy and initiation of the leading men of the country, the movement cannot succeed, and it is for you who are the trusted leaders of the people, to advise and guide them to move forward, and to profit by this benevolent measure of Government.

The new Registrar has also been charged with the duty of acquainting himself with the present condition of the various industries in the State and seeing in what ways they can be developed. There is at present scanty information in the possession of Government regarding the trade of the country. The Registrar will also, therefore, collect and systematise commercial statistics for the information of Government and for the use of business people.

Technical Education.

The Engineering school at Mysore made good progress. Several of the pupils of the Institution obtained high places at the Madras Technical Examinations. Some of the subjects taken up were building, drawing and estimating, mensuration, earthwork and road making, carpentry, bridge-work, free-hand and model-drawing, and in these subjects some of the successful students occupied the foremost places in the list. The Mysore Industrial School has considerably improved in efficiency, and the pottery department has been able to turn out at cheap rates roofing and flooring tiles which within a short time may lay claim to be equal in quality to the best productions of that kind. The Industrial school at Melkote and the Weaving school at Dodballapur were able to send to the Exhibition held at Bombay in the beginning of this year excellent specimens of silk and cotton cloths which won medals and diplomas. The Weaving school at Hole-Narsipur has now been provided with a small laboratory and dye-house, and experiments have been successfully carried out to dye cloths cheaply with vegetable and artificial dyes. Altogether there were eighteen Industrial schools, of which six were weaving schools. Some of the subjects taught in the other schools were carpentry, blacksmith's work, drawing, rattan work, pottery and modelling, brick-laying and rope-making. All these schools did good work.

During the year ten village schoolmasters who were trained in Mr. Tata's Silk Farm at Bangalore were

appointed as Sericultural Inspectors in the mulberry-growing taluks of the State to instruct the people in improved methods of silk-worm rearing and mulberry planting.

In addition to the usual Medical and Engineering scholarships, 27 technical scholarships were granted. Of the scholarship holders 10 are studying Mechanical Engineering and 15 Electrical Engineering in the Victoria Institute of Bombay. Of the remaining two, one is studying engraving and the other metal-work and engraving in the School of Arts at Madras. There were also 5 scholars studying in the Veterinary College of Bombay and 2 in that of Madras.

Demonstration Farms for imparting instruction in practical agriculture were established in connection with eight Government schools in different parts of the State. His Highness the Maharaja visited one of these gardens in his tour in November last and remarked that, to be of practical value, a garden should contain more than poor specimens of common country vegetables, and that the encouragement of a taste for flower gardening in non-cultivators and the demonstration of improved methods and results to cultivators would be valuable. The teaching of practical agriculture was inaugurated in the Mysore Normal school in order to enable the teachers of Primary and Lower Secondary schools to have gardens and farms in connection with their schools.

Bombay Exhibition.

A separate Mysore section was organized in connection with the Bombay Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition held in December last. The number of articles exhibited was 727, of which 329 articles obtained a ready sale on the spot. 6 gold, 11 silver and 7 bronze medals and 6 certificates of merit were secured. A number of exhibitors and artizans from some of the chief centres of manufacture were sent to Bombay to study the exhibits and the working of some of the Industrial Institutions there. A few influential raiyats were also sent from the Shimoga District to acquaint themselves with the several improved patterns of agricultural implements exhibited there.

You remember, I referred last year, to a measure for the holding of agricultural shows at selected places in the State. A cattle and agricultural show was held at Hiriyur in the Chitaldurg District on the occasion of the last Thyara Malleswara Jatra. Besides the local cattle and articles produced in the district, paddy from Seringapatam, silk and silk cocoons from Closepet and Tumkur,

arecanut from Birur were exhibited. The Indian Fibre Company of Pavagada exhibited fibre and the agent of Messrs. Binny & Co. at Davangere sent specimens of Egyptian, American and other varieties of imported cotton. A simple machine for extracting plantain fibre was exhibited from Molakalmuru and worked in the exhibition. There was also a collection of several varieties of manure the composition and nature of which the exhibitor explained to the visitors. At the ploughing competition different kinds of ploughs were at work and much interest was manifested in their success. Kapile gear was fully exhibited and there was also a Kapile-driving competition. A blacksmith from Bommagondanakere in the Molakalmuru Taluk sent a number of iron and steel implements used in agriculture. It is reported that the assembled raiyats seemed to enter into the spirit of the undertaking and appreciate its advantages.

In January next it is proposed to hold an Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition at Mysore. This exhibition is intended to convey a fairly accurate idea of the agricultural and industrial arts of Mysore and of the resources we possess for their further development. I trust, gentlemen, in your own spheres, you will use your influence to make known the objects of the Exhibition, secure a representative collection of exhibits and make the exhibition a success worthy of the name of Mysore.

Excise.

The retail arrack shops were 923 against 931; but the consumption rose from 348,087 gallons to 367,106 gallons. This increase was chiefly in the Kolar and Shimoga Districts. In the former, it was due to the diminution in the consumption of beer and to greater success in the prevention of smuggling. In the latter, the detection of many cases of illicit distillation of arrack by Lumbanies and the close watch kept against such distillation have, evidently suppressed clandestine manufacture and led to the greater consumption of licit arrack. Even with this increase the consumption was well within the annual average (410,900 gallons) of the quinquennium previous to 1896-97.

There were six toddy shops less than in the previous year. The toddy trees tapped in and outside the State for the local shops numbered 450,530 as against 422,855 in the previous year. The increase was chiefly in the Kolar, Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts. In Kolar it was due partly to the indifferent working of the beer shops, and partly to the execution of a number of public works. The number of trees tapped in Mysore for British shops was 25,359 as against 14,923 of last year.

Country-made foreign spirits of weaker strength were introduced during the year to meet the requirements of the people who were found in their absence to have recourse to inferior foreign stuff, but the new liquor has to compete with the great cheapness of the European article. The quantity of ganja consumed inclusive of majum was 8,331 seers against 15,595. This large fall by nearly one-half was due to the doubling of the retail price of 1 anna per tola.

The incidence of excise revenue per head of population was 11 annas against 10 annas and 9 pies in the previous year.

Forests.

The area of State Forests was increased by the addition of six blocks with an extent of 40·3 square miles. Two blocks, about 12½ square miles, were newly notified, and these as well as 15 others previously notified, in all measuring 82·26 square miles, were brought under settlement. About 356 miles of new demarcation lines were cut, and about 905 miles of old lines were maintained in order or widened to the standard width of 66 feet. An aggregate area of about 1,100 acres was pitted and planted chiefly with teak in the high forests of Mysore, Kadur and Shimoga Districts. Besides, indigenous species to provide nurses for sandal were planted over a total area of 596 acres in the Maidan districts. Cultural operations chiefly consisting of dibbling of sandal seeds were carried out in exploited coupes and scrub jungles over an area of 11,350 acres.

The area of State Forests and Plantations attempted to be protected from fire was 1,832 square miles, of which 1,686 are reported to have been successfully protected.

The Special Forest Survey party referred to in my address of last year surveyed 7 State Forests in the Mysore District and 16 in the Bangalore District, of the extent of 720 square miles. The cost amounted to Rs. 20,247 or Rs. 28 per square mile. Considerable sums were also spent on roads, buildings, demarcation and planting and sowing.

The ghaut forests had hitherto remained unexplored, unworked and unutilized except by the Kumri cultivators. Their examination has now been taken up systematically in hand. All of them, with the exception of a few in the extreme north of the Shimoga District, have been explored in order to ascertain their timber resources. It is proposed to work out the present mature and exploitable stock within the next 15 or 20 years.

For the renovation of the valuable teak and mixed forests of Mysore, Kadur and Shimoga a system of periodical fellings on a rotation ranging from 40 to 60 years according to the condition of the stock, has been introduced. During each period only a fixed proportion of the unsound and unpromising stock will be exploited The selection of exploitable trees is carefully scrutinised by the higher officers of the Department and no trees that are not above certain prescribed girths will be permitted to be felled. After the extraction of marketable timber is completed, all unpromising poles and saplings will be coppiced in order to secure healthy shoots; all inferior trees interfering with the growth of teak and other valuable timber will be destroyed by girdlings; and climbers entwining trees will be cut, the whole area being then planted up with nursery-raised teak seedlings. The method of treatment in the case of Maidan forests is to coppice with standards on a rotation of 30 years. The exploited coupes are closed against grazing, rigidly fire-protected, and dibbled with sandal.

At the same time the importance of preparing regular working plans for these valuable forests has not been lost sight of. The collection of statistics for the Heggaddevankoté forests is nearly completed, and the compilation of plans will be taken in hand as soon as the maps, which are now under preparation, are ready. Statistics for the same purpose are being collected in the Lakkavalli forest also.

Efforts to combat the spike disease in sandal trees were continued and 17,500 diseased trees were uprooted chiefly in the Mysore District, where, notwithstanding the drastic measures, the disease continues to make progress, though it is not very virulent in the previously affected tracts, and is reported to be confined to localities where the soil is unfavorable to the vigorous growth of vegetation.

Under the arrangement with Mr. Haji Ismail Sait, mentioned last year, timber of the value of Rs. 1,72,196 was sold to him for supply at the Gold Field, which was mainly extracted from the remote and hitherto unexploited forests of Shimoga and Kadur. Nearly the whole of this timber had absolutely no local demand hitherto, and had remained unworked except by villagers and iron-smelters for their own consumption. About one-fourth of this supply consisted of dindiga (*Anogeissus latifolia*) which, owing to the absence of demand, had hitherto been suffered to crowd out the more valuable species of timber in the forests.

The Conservator who is bringing much vigilant attention, knowledge and experience to bear upon this work is quite alive to the importance of effectually conserving these forests. It is only the mature trees which would otherwise decay that are removed so as to derive revenue, and it is believed that under his able and intelligent direction, the character and composition of the forests will be greatly improved.

Two forest scholarships were granted last month, and two students have now gone to England to undergo a course of Forestry in the Oxford University. After two years, they will proceed to Germany for a year's training in that country.

A better redistribution of the grades of Forest Rangers was lately sanctioned. The service, for sometime past, is being recruited by a better class of men than formerly, and as an incentive to continued good work it became necessary to improve their prospects. The number of appointments in the higher grades has therefore been increased by 7, while a corresponding diminution has been made in the lower grades.

Geological.

Five Mining, 18 Prospecting and 4 Exploring licenses were granted during the year under the new rules. Five applications for Mining leases still await the completion of the necessary formalities in regard to Survey and Demarcation of the Mining blocks.

The number of Mining Companies actually at work at the end of the year was 11, as against 13, the Road Block and Nine Reefs having temporarily ceased to work. The number of those that paid dividends rose from 5 to 7.

Development operations are being vigorously carried on on the newly-granted prospecting and mining blocks by the lessees and license-holders.

The total quantity of bar gold produced in all the Mines was 607,574 ozs. of the value of Rs. 348,47,745, as against 598,519 ozs. of the value of Rs. 342,61,080.

The total number of persons employed in the mining industry was 29,495 as against 27,355. The death rate per 1,000 persons was 1·52 as against 2·52.

For more effective control and supervision of the mining area, it was found necessary to recast and amend the provisions of the Mining Regulation in several important respects, and a draft of this Regulation is now under the consideration of Government.

The new Schist belt discovered last year in the Chitaldrug and Tumkur Districts was traced further

towards the north to the borders of Mysore, and in the south was found a continuation of it south of Kunigal-Nelligere road. It consists of a great bulk of rock with about 50 per cent of iron, and as it is very thick and situated within 45 miles of Sivasamudram, the conditions appear favorable to the establishment of a steel industry. The quartz reefs in this area all show gold, the rocks of the new belt being similar to those of Kolar. Preliminary Geological Survey of Kunigal and portions of Mandya and Malvalli Taluks was also conducted with a view to locating bodies of iron-ore and a very large mass of it was discovered. A large area in the north of Chitaldurg was mapped with great detail. The survey of Shimoga District commenced last year, was continued to the Kadur District. The manganese ores of the Shimoga District were worked and the licensees have already collected more than 5,000 tons of the ore. They are now met with the difficulty of finding sufficient carrying power to transport the collection, and are contemplating to have a steam tramway for a distance of 18 miles from the Shimoga Railway Station to the mineral tract. Numerous short excursions in connection with building stones, mica, corundum and green quartzite were made and their occurrence located. The entire lateritic area in Bangalore and Kolar Districts was examined and mapped, and some analyses are being made to see whether the percentage of aluminium is sufficiently large to be of economic importance.

The total number of assays and analyses of minerals and rock specimens, etc., made in the Chemical Laboratory was 88 as against 56 and numerous microscopical examinations were also made of the various specimens previously collected by the officers of the department.

Public Works.

The total expenditure amounted to Rs. 62,11,500, of which about Rs. 18,00,000 was on irrigation works, about Rs. 32,00,000 on Civil Works, and about Rs. 12,00,000 on Cauvery Power Scheme.

The restorations of breached tanks in the Kolar Division which were in progress were practically completed during the year, with the exception of those of the terminal Ramasagara tank and a few others which are now in rapid progress.

On the Marikanave Project the main dam at Marikanave was raised from R. L. 109·40 to R. L. 135·00. The water level in the reservoir is now at R. L. 84·00. The subsidiary anicut at Katrikenahalli was practically completed and there was good progress on the channels therefrom. The outlay during the year was Rs. 3,75,000.

The reconstruction of the Hemagiri anicut in the Krishnarajapete Taluk was sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 97,000, and the dam was raised to full height in one working season, and water given for irrigation this year. The work was done by task work agency at low rates and a saving of Rs. 39,000 was effected on the estimated cost.

The reconstruction of the Chikdevarayasagara anicut in the Mysore District was practically completed. The other works including civil buildings and communications mentioned in my previous addresses made satisfactory progress, and require no special mention.

Referring to Famine Protective Irrigation Projects, surveys and levels in connection with the two alternative projects for reservoirs on the Nugu river were taken. Three of the projects already completed, *viz.*, of tanks at Thippaganahalli in the Goribidnur Taluk, at Nidsale in the Kunigal Taluk, and at Sowlanga in the Honnali Taluk, estimated to cost in the aggregate Rs. 2,93,586, were sanctioned, the remaining projects being still under scrutiny.

Serial maps and tank registers were completed in the rough for all tanks in the North Pennar and Shimsha basins. In the Vedavathi basin maps were all completely prepared and three-fourths of the number of tanks were inspected. Roughly speaking, it may be stated that till now, maps and registers have been completed for one-half of the State.

The special grant of Rs. 1,00,000 given for restoration of minor tanks was worked out as below:—

District.	*Allotment.*	*Expenditure.*
1. Kolar	Rs. 18,000	Rs. 18,004
2. Hassan	15,000	13,259
3. Tumkur	15,000	10,479
4. Mysore	10,000	8,068
5. Chitaldrug	10,000	6,550
6. Bangalore	15,000	5,254
7. Kadur	7,000	3,097
8. Shimoga	10,000	36
	1,00,000	64,747

You will observe that in the Kolar District the Deputy Commissioner Mr. Puttanna Chetty was most successful in securing the hearty co-operation of the raiyats and working out the whole of the allotment. The result is doubtless very satisfactory. In the Hassan and Tumkur Districts also the operations may be said to be encouraging.

In the Bangalore, Chitaldrug and Kadur Districts, there existed much scope for improvement. In the Shimoga District the operations were a complete disappointment. This allotment has again been repeated this year, and I trust, gentlemen, that there will be no lack of effort on your part to induce the people concerned to come forward early and obtain the full benefit of the gracious concession of His Highness the Maharaja.

The supply of water to the Kolar Gold Field from the Bethamangala Tank was commenced in January last, but the quantity given hitherto was only half of that stipulated for. From this month, however, the full supply of one million gallons per day is being given.

The Electric Lighting Scheme for the Bangalore City having been completed, the inaugural ceremony was performed by the Hon'ble Mr. Hewett, Member of the Viceroy's Council in charge of the Department of Commerce and Industry on the 3rd August last. You will be glad to hear that the Hon'ble gentleman who believed that Bangalore was the first city in India to be lighted by electricity, highly complimented His Highness' Government for "the far-seeing intelligence and wisdom" which as he said, "have marked the administration of the Mysore State." I need not say that it should be our endeavour to continue to deserve this compliment by further developments of our natural resources.

It is gratifying to note that other industries also have begun to utilize electric power for their purposes. Among these may be mentioned the Bangalore Woollen Cotton and Silk Mills Company and Mr. Haji Ismail Sait's Saw Mill at the Gold Field.

Railways.

The percentage of working expenses to gross earnings was 65·7 against 60·80. The net earnings amounted to Rs. 8,07,093 as against Rs. 8,52,795. The percentages of net earnings after deduction of expenditure to capital outlay work out as follows :—

	1903-04.	1904-05.
Mysore-Harihar	3·74	3·35
Bangalore-Hindupur	4·88	5·75
Mysore-Nanjangud	2·21	2·14
Birur-Shimoga	1·10	1·03
Gold Field Railway	6·96	6·39

The percentage of net earnings on all the Railways to capital outlay was 3·49 against 3·71. But if account is taken of the payment of $\frac{1}{4}$th share of divisible profits payable to the Southern Mahratta Railway for their manage-

ment, and of interest on the sterling loan of £1,200,000 raised in England, the result will be an excess charge during the year of Rs. 3,02,349 on the general revenues of the State against Rs. 2,55,256 of the previous year.

Detailed plans and estimates for constructing the Bangalore-Chikballapur Light Railway were received from the company, and are now under the consideration of Government. Proposals for constructing a Metre Gauge line to connect the Kolar Gold Field with Marmugao were received from the Agent of the Southern Mahratta Railway; and after consideration Government have authorised him to proceed with the necessary surveys, and to collect traffic statistics for a line from the Kolar Gold Field *via* Kolar town, Vemgal, Jangamkote, Devanhalli and Dodballapur to Dodbele Station. It is under contemplation to make an annual allotment from the State revenue for railway extensions.

Mysore City Improvement.

The Trust Board of Mysore expended Rs. 4,66,470 on various works of improvement. A set of rules for the grant of loans to persons, not being Government servants, to enable them to build houses and make other improvements was framed. The rules provide for the recovery of the loans advanced by quarterly instalments of easy payments, extending up to a maximum period of 10 years. The Stamp duty on documents executed by applicants for loans under these rules has been remitted and the registration fee also reduced. The loans granted during the year amounted to Rs. 5,180. It is expected that the facilities created by these rules will enable the poorer inhabitants of the city to build for themselves suitable houses without having to pay usurious rates of interest, and possibly involving themselves in inextricable debt.

A set of bye-laws relating to the construction of houses was also sanctioned.

Judicial.

The total number of Civil Original and Small Cause suits filed was 9,796 and 8,458 respectively as against 10,190 and 8,567 of the previous year, showing a decline of 2·6 per cent. The total number disposed of were :— Regular 10,034, Small Cause 8,603, total 18,637 against 18,757, being slightly more than the number filed, though less than the disposals of the previous year.

The total number of regular and second appeals filed was 1,096 and the number pending was 993. The number disposed of was more than the number filed, being 1,311 against 1,186.

The Chief Court Regulation was amended in order to make it clear that a single Judge could deal with cases in

which there were applications for revision by the parties as well as with those initiated by the court itself.

Two second Additional Munsiffs' Courts were temporarily established, one at Bangalore and the other at Mysore, with jurisdiction concurrent with the Principal and Additional Munsiffs of those places, in order to relieve the congestion of work in their courts.

The Civil jurisdiction over the taluk of Mulbagal was transferred for the convenience of the people of that taluk from the Munsiff's Court of Kolar Gold Fields to that of Kolar. Experience also showed that a Sub-Judge's Court was more needed at Shimoga than at Chitaldrug to assist the District Judge, the transfer of appeals to the Sub-Judges of Chitaldrug and Chikmagalur being attended with much inconvenience, delay and expense. The people of Davangere Taluk also had been put to inconvenience as they had to cross the Tungabhadra river to attend the Munsiff's Court at Honnali. The Sub-Court at Chitaldrug was therefore transferred to Shimoga with original Civil jurisdiction over the Districts of Shimoga and Chitaldrug and with reduced Small Cause jurisdiction up to Rs. 100 and the Munsiff's Court at Honnali took the place of the Sub-Court at Chitaldrug. The Sub-Judge at Shimoga was also invested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge as a tentative measure, his jurisdiction being confined to the Shimoga District.

The Central Nazirs and their establishments were placed under the direct control of the District Judges and other improvements in their working were effected.

The number of heinous and ordinary offences that came up before the Courts and the number of persons involved were 12,243 and 25,554 respectively, as against 11,009 and 22,638, showing an increased percentage of 11·20 in offences and 12·88 in persons.

Police. The number of cases reported to the Police was 5,600 as against 5,211 or 7·4 per cent more than in the previous year. The increase was mostly under minor offences against property and under the Arms Act, Village Police Rules, etc. The constant evacuation of villages on account of plague also afforded facility for this increase. A few dacoities occurred in the Mysore District, but the prompt preventive measures adopted were effective in checking the crime from spreading.

The whole of the Special Reserve Police was concentrated at Bangalore instead of being scattered at five different places, as hitherto. Detachments will be sent to Mysore, Shimoga and Kolar Gold Fields periodically

and to other districts as occasion arises. The new scheme is expected to secure increased efficiency of the force.

The absence of a proper prosecuting agency before Magistrates having been much felt, 8 prosecuting Inspectors, one for each district, were appointed.

A scheme for the re-arrangement of the Police force in the Shimoga District, was also lately sanctioned. The main features of this scheme are an increase in the number of investigating centres, and a better redistribution of the men. It has been ruled that no officer drawing less than Rs. 20 a month should be placed in charge of an investigating centre or empowered to investigate cognizable crimes; a reform on which the Police Commission in British India have laid much stress.

Registration.

The total number of documents registered was 59,989 against 56,900 in the year previous.

Some additional duties were entrusted to Sub-Registrars during the year, such as charge of lock-ups, and inspection of Agricultural Banks and Joint Stock Companies. They were also made members of Municipal and Taluk Boards.

The free minimum of 300 words was abolished and a reduced uniform charge of two annas per 100 words ordered to be levied. The fee for the retention of documents was reduced from one rupee to eight annas. This reform is the result of the representations made by the members of this Assembly.

Education.

Last year I referred to a slight fall that had taken place in the number of pupils attending schools, and said that the decline did not appear to be due to any permanent causes. I am now glad to say that this belief has been confirmed by the rise in the strength of the schools which we notice. The percentage of boys at school to boys of school-going age rose from 21·28 to 22·68 and that of girls from 4·05 to 4·31. The number of all institutions increased and the rise in their strength shows that the revised scale of fees brought into force from January 1904 has not had any discouraging effect on the growth of education.

The Shimoga College was reduced to the status of a High School from January of this year. The F. A. classes were small and the students who were not all of the Shimoga District, could obtain superior education in the First Grade Colleges of Bangalore and Mysore, which are

now within easy reach and have excellent hostels. To lessen any possible hardship from the change, Government have established ten district scholarships tenable in Bangalore or Mysore to be given to poor students.

The grants-in-aid of the three Mission High Schools of the State were increased to enable the managers to alter the working hours from morning to mid-day, a change which was greatly desired for the efficiency of these schools. The construction of a Students' Home for the Tumkur High School was sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 14,437.

In accordance with the policy to encourage private efforts in the field of education, the Marimallappa's School which hitherto was a Lower Secondary Institution was recognized as a High School and an increased grant given.

The education of widows had till recently been helped by scholarships from the Devaraja Bahadur Fund. To give further encouragement, thirty scholarships, under the direct control of the Education Department, were sanctioned, costing Government Rs. 2,736 a year.

A general educational conference was held at Bangalore for the first time in the month of March last which was attended by some of the distinguished educationists of the State. Many important questions tending to promote the cause of sound education were discussed and the Report of the Conference is now under the consideration of Government.

The Inspecting staff which stood in need of strengthening and improvement was reorganized by the appointment of two Circle Inspectors and of eight additional Assistant Deputy Inspectors. This strengthening of the Staff will, it is hoped, render inspection and control more effective than hitherto and further improve the state of primary and secondary schools.

Eight Mahomedan boys of respectable families in the State have, as a special case, been granted liberal scholarships tenable in the Mahomedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh, where they are receiving High School or College education.

The question of granting one-fifth of the income from the Damodar Dass Charity Fund which yields annually about Rs. 20,000, for scholarships to Gujarati students was taken up this year; and the Vaisya Sabha of Ahamadabad, the Hon'ble G. K. Parekh of Bombay, and Mr. C. T. Dalal,

Raja Sabha Bhushana, who is now Chief Engineer of Baroda, were consulted, with the result that rules were issued in May last granting annually 11 scholarships varying from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20. Nine of these scholarships are to be given to those studying for the Bombay University Examinations; one to a student studying for Engineering or Agriculture, and one for Medicine. The selection of students is entrusted to a committee of Khadayata gentlemen to be appointed from time to time. The rules for granting post-graduate scholarships out of the remaining four-fifths are under revision. A scholarship of £265 annually for a period of three years has been granted to a Mysore student N. S. Subba Rao, B.A., who had a distinguished University course here, to study for History and Economics Tripos in the Cambridge University, and he very recently left for England.

A scholarship of £100 annually for three years was granted from State Funds to J. V. Karve, son of Mr. V. H. Karve of the Mysore Public Works Department, to study for M.B. and C.M. of the Edinburgh University. While at the University, this student has been asked to devote special attention to practical microscope work in which our staff is said to require strengthening.

In this connection, it will give you pleasure, I hope, to hear that it is settled that the Tata Institute is to be established in Bangalore ere long. His Highness the Maharaja has in consideration of the high usefulness anticipated of the Institute, been pleased to raise the annual grant from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000.

The number of local committees appointed to supervise the working of Muzrai institutions was 15. Scales of expenditure were revised in the case of nine institutions, and fixed according to present requirements. Repairs were sanctioned to 104 institutions at a cost of more than Rs. 89,000. A special grant of Rs. 10,000 was sanctioned for the reconstruction of the Annachattram at Agumbi on the road to Udupi, one of the important places of pilgrimage in Southern India. New cash grants were made in favor of two institutions, and land endowments which had been resumed or attached owing to the disrepaired condition of the buildings were restored in the case of five institutions.

The scale of expenditure in connection with His Highness the Maharaja's charities at Tirupati was improved. The repairs immediately required to the Chattram buildings and to some of the costly paraphernalia offered to the deity by the former Maharajas of Mysore were ordered,

and sanction given for the construction of additional buildings for the accommodation of non-Brahmin Hindu pilgrims.

A grant-in-aid of Rs. 50 per mensem was sanctioned to the Hindu orphanage at Mysore which is under the management of some of the leading men of the city.

Medical and Sanitary.

The total number of patients treated was 1,165,610 as against 1,131,250 of last year, showing an increase of 34,360 patients. The number of midwives who were at work was 115 as against 93. The total number of cases performed by the vaccinators in the State was 70,393 against 57,376 in the year previous.

The total number of births was less by 4,991 and the total mortality showed a satisfactory diminution of 11,893. While there was an increase in the number of deaths from cholera and small-pox, 445 and 2,170 respectively, the decrease in the number of deaths from fever was no less than 7,597. The number of plague cases and deaths diminished from 26,851 and 19,972 to 24,375, and 17,503, respectively.

The Railway Stations at Mysore and Bowringpet were continued as Inspection Stations.

The rat tribe being considered as the principal agency for disseminating plague, special measures were adopted for their extirpation in Mysore.

A special contact camp was constructed on the Kolar Gold Fields for the use of Europeans and Eurasians.

General sanitation which is known to be the foremost preventive and remedial measure to be resorted to in combating plague and which is also so essential to the growth and health of human life, engaged the earnest consideration of Government. Each District has now a Medical and Sanitary Officer. A Personal Assistant has also been appointed to help the Sanitary Commissioner. A special sanitary staff, having professional training, has been ordered to be employed. In the Municipal cities of Bangalore and Mysore there are to be a Chief Inspector and four or five Sanitary Inspectors. In other Municipal towns, if the population exceeds 5,000, there are to be a Sanitary and an Assistant Sanitary Inspector; if below 5,000, there is to be a Sanitary or an Assistant Sanitary Inspector. The District Medical and Sanitary Officers of Mysore and Bangalore are to be the Sanitary Officers of the respective Municipalities. In every other Municipal town where there is a

Medical Officer located, he is to be the Sanitary Officer. Every Taluk Board is also to employ a Sanitary Inspector. The Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors before appointment should have passed at least the Matriculation examination and undergone training in Sanitation and Engineering. A number of men are already under training in the King Institute at Madras.

Conclusion.

Before concluding, I am commanded by His Highness the Maharaja to announce to you the happy news of the gracious acceptance by Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales of His Highness' invitation to honor this State with a visit. This is the first time that Mysore will have the proud privilege and satisfaction of welcoming the Heir-apparent to the British Throne and his royal consort. Their Royal Highnesses are expected to arrive towards the end of January next and spend about ten days here. His Majesty the King-Emperor has, by according his gracious sanction to this visit, given us a signal proof of his love to Mysore and its people. We cannot be too grateful for these acts of great condescension. The British Throne, as you know, gentlemen, is the symbol of unity and progress for the Empire, and His Highness the Maharaja is sure that, while in the cordiality of welcome, Mysore will be second to none, it will always occupy a foremost place in the sincerity and intensity of its loyalty to that imperial Throne.

P. N. KRISHNA MURTI,
Dewan of Mysore.